

In the Claims:

Please cancel Claims 32-35 without prejudice or disclaimer as being drawn to a non-elected invention.

The standing of the claims is as follows:

Claims 1-20 (Canceled)

21. (Previously Added) A non-woven material comprising a modified poly(ethylene oxide), wherein the modified poly(ethylene oxide) is modified by grafting a polar vinyl monomer to a poly(ethylene oxide) having an initial molecular weight within the range of about 50,000 g/mol to about 350,000 g/mol before grafting of the polar vinyl monomer.

cl 22. (Currently Amended) The non-woven material of Claim 21, wherein the poly(ethylene oxide) ~~has sufficient melt strength and sufficient melt elasticity for melt spinning~~ is capable of being melt-spun into fibers.

23. (Previously Added) The non-woven material of Claim 22, wherein the poly(ethylene oxide) has an apparent viscosity of less than 200 Pascal seconds at shear rates of not less than 100 second⁻¹ and not greater than 1,000 second⁻¹.

24. (Previously Added) The non-woven of Claim 22, wherein the non-woven consists essentially of poly(ethylene oxide).

25. (Previously Added) A non-woven comprising a graft copolymer of a poly(ethylene oxide) having an initial molecular weight within the range of about 50,000 g/mol to about 250,000 g/mol and a polar vinyl monomer.

26. (Previously Added) The non-woven of Claim 25, wherein the modified poly(ethylene oxide) is modified from a poly(ethylene oxide) having an initial molecular weight before modification within the range of about 50,000 g/mol to about 100,000 g/mol.

27. (Previously Added) The non-woven material of Claim 25, wherein the modified poly(ethylene oxide) is modified by the addition of an initiator.

28. (Previously Added) The non-woven material of Claim 25, wherein the polar vinyl monomer is selected from the group consisting of poly(ethylene glycol) methacrylates and 2-hydroxyethyl methacrylate.

29. (Currently Amended) ~~The non-woven material of Claim 28;~~ A non-woven comprising a graft copolymer of a poly(ethylene oxide) having an initial molecular weight within the range of about 50,000 g/mol to about 250,000 g/mol and a polar vinyl monomer;

wherein the polar vinyl monomer is a poly(ethylene glycol) ethyl ether methacrylate and has an average molecular weight of not greater than about 5,000 grams per mol.

30. (Previously Added) The non-woven material of Claim 25, wherein the polar vinyl monomer is added within the range of about 0.1 to about 20 weight percent relative to the weight of the poly(ethylene oxide).

31. (Currently Amended) ~~The non-woven material of Claim 28;~~ A non-woven comprising a graft copolymer of a poly(ethylene oxide) having an initial molecular weight within the range of about 50,000 g/mol to about 250,000 g/mol and a polar vinyl monomer;

wherein the polar vinyl monomer is a poly(ethylene glycol) ethyl ether methacrylate.

32. (Canceled)

33. (Canceled)

34. (Canceled)

35. (Canceled)

36. (Previously Added) The non-woven material of Claim 21, wherein the non-woven material is produced by a spun-bond process.

37. (Currently Amended) The non-woven material of Claim 22, wherein the non-woven ~~material~~ material is produced by a melt-blown process.